



American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

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3

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October 8, 1998

The Honorable Constance A. Morella
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

OCT 13 1998

Dear Representative Morella:

As one of your enthusiastic supporters and constituents, I am writing in my capacity as President of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. We represent the great majority of the board certified practitioners of endocrinology and diabetes throughout the country. We seek to improve the quality of care for all Americans while delivering cost-effective, efficient, affordable, state-of-the-art medicine.

This letter is to alert you to the fact that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be holding hearings on October 21 and 22, under the leadership of Commissioner Shirley A. Jackson. Other Commissioners are Greta J. Dicus, Nils J. Diaz, and Edward McGaffigan, Jr. These hearings will be of utmost concern to endocrinologists throughout Maryland and throughout the country. The hearings are about the treatment with Iodine-131 which is used for some patients with hyperthyroidism and most patients with thyroid cancer. This treatment can be life-saving for both forms of illness and it is extremely safe, effective, and rapid acting with no adverse side effects. It is a mainstay of therapy for thyroid cancer.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering a proposal to increase the number of training and experience hours from 80 to 120 for treatment of hyperthyroidism and thyroid carcinoma. The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AAACE) feels that this revision is unwarranted and simply discourages endocrinologists from providing this form of treatment when in fact endocrinologists, with their broad base of experience and training in all forms of thyroid disease and access to various forms of thyroid testing, are in the best position to judge the timing and appropriateness of Iodine-131.

We would greatly appreciate your advice and assistance, as to how we might most effectively communicate our message to the Commissioners of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Helena W. Rodbard, M.D., FACP, FACE*
President

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